

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 17556 01 OF 02 241105Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 17556

AMMAN FOR AMBASSADOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR EG IS US

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ISRAELI CABINET MEETING

SUMMARY. INITIAL EGYPTIAN REACTION TO ISRAELI CABINET
DECISION AND ALLEGED BEGIN STATEMENTS IS DENIAL OF
DAYAN/WEIZMAN-KAMEL/GAMASY MEETING AND DENIAL THAT EGYPT
READY TO ACCEPT WEST BANK COMPROMISE. ISRAELI DECISION
REFLECTS CONTINUING "INTRANSIGENCE". WITHOUT REFERENCE
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 17556 01 OF 02 241105Z

TO CABINET DECISION, EDITORIALS STRONGLY ATTACK BEGIN AS
REPRESENTATIVE OF "PETRIFIED" ZIONIST THINKING. GUMHURIY-
YA STRESSES DIPLOMACY IS PROCESS OF MUTUAL CONCESSIONS
AND FACT THAT EGYPT WILLING TO NEGOTIATE, RECOGNIZE
ISRAEL, AND ASSURE SECURITY ARE MAJOR ARAB CONCESSIONS.
AHRAH POSTULATES THREE POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE: BEGIN
CHANGE HIS MIND, HE BE REPLACED, OR SITUATION CONTINUE

WITH WAR MORE LIKELY. END SUMMARY.

1. DENIAL OF ALLEGED BEGIN STATEMENTS. PRESS JULY 24 REPORTS "OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN SOURCE" DENIED WHAT WAS BROADCAST ON ISRAELI RADIO (SPOKESMAN ATTRIBUTED THIS STATEMENT TO BEGIN) THAT THERE WILL BE MEETING BETWEEN DAYAN/WEIZMAN AND KAMEL/GAMASY ON AUGUST 3 AT "AMERICAN (EARLY) WARNING STATION" IN SINAI. SOURCE ALSO DENIED ALLEGED "BEGIN STATEMENT" ABOUT EGYPT'S READINESS TO ACCEPT COMPROMISE CONCERNING THE WEST BANK AND ANOTHER STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO BEGIN THAT IF SADAT PREFERS NEGOTIATIONS WITH WEIZMAN, HE (BEGIN) HAS NO OBJECTION. THE OFFICIAL AFFIRMED BEGIN'S STATEMENTS WERE BASELESS AND THERE NO NEED TO COMMENT ON THEM BECAUSE BEGIN IS FIRST TO KNOW THAT NO AGREEMENT OF THIS SORT WAS REACHED AT LEEDS. IN THIRD EDITION OF GUMHURIYYA THERE IS STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO "ARAB FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES" THAT THE ISRAELI CABINET DECISION REFLECTS CONTINUATION OF ISRAEL'S "INTRANSIGENCE."

2. KAMEL. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER, BUT NOT ARABIC PAPERS, REPORT KAMEL SAID DECISION ILLUSTRATES ONCE MORE THAT ISRAELIS NOT SHOWING ANY READINESS TO BUDGE FROM THEIR "FROZEN POSITION." KAMEL CHARGED ISRAELI CABINET HAD SIDESTEPED MAIN ISSUE IN EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL, NAMELY THAT ISRAEL WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK AND GAZA AS FIRST UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 17556 01 OF 02 241105Z

STEP TO COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

3. EDITORIALS. WHILE NO EDITORIAL MENTIONS EXPLICITLY ISRAELI CABINET DECISION, THEY STRONGLY ATTACK BEGIN. AHRAH CHARGES BEGIN REPRESENTS HEIGHT OF "PETRIFIED" ZIONIST THOUGHT BASED ON "EXPANSIONISM, DOMINATION, AND TERRORISM." THIS THOUGHT CRYSTALIZED AT LEEDS WHEN EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE ABOUT PEACE PLAN AND MUTUAL SECURITY GUARANTEES AND ISRAELI ANSWER WAS LAND IS ONLY WAY TO REALIZE ISRAELI SECURITY. EDITORIAL ASKS IF BEGIN WILL COME OUT OF HIS ISOLATION FROM HIS OPPONENTS IN ISRAEL AND FROM WORLD PUBLIC OPINION, ALL OF WHOM REALIZE HE IS "OBSTACLE" TO PEACE. AKHBAR EDITORIAL CONTINUES ATTACK IN SAME VEIN, NOTING ISRAELI PAPERS TIED BEGIN'S PERCEIVED INTRANSIGENCE TO HIS "SICKNESS." EDITORIAL CONTENTS BEGIN STILL LIVES IN PAST AND DREAMS OF EXPANSION WHILE SPEAKING OF PEACE. GUMHURIYYA EDITORIAL NOTES SOME ISRAELI OFFICIALS SUPPORT WITHDRAWAL FROM AL ARISH IN RETURN FOR WHAT THEY CALL CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT REGARDING ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND AIRFIELDS IN NORTHERN SINAI. EDITORIAL THEN STATES: "WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT DIPLOMACY IN ITS REAL SENSE IS A PROCESS

OF MUTUAL CONCESSIONS." ISRAELIS SHOULD REALIZE, EDITORIAL CONTINUES, THAT "NEGOTIATIONS, RECOGNITION, AND APPROVAL OF GUARANTEES ARE ARAB CONCESSIONS. . . THE GREATEST ARAB CONCESSION FOR ARAB PEACE AND FOR STOPPING OF BLOODSHED. THIS IS WHAT WE WELCOME, AS TO TERRITORIES AND SOVEREIGNTY, 'NO, 1,000 TIMES NO.", AS PRESIDENT SADAT SAID."

4. IN FURTHER COMMENTARY IN AHRAH IT IS POINTED OUT THAT SADAT LAUNCHED INITIATIVE NOT TO DEAL WITH BEGIN IN PER-

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 17556 02 OF 02 241108Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 17556

SONAL CAPACITY, BUT NEGOTIATED WITH ALL ISRAEL'S POWERS IN POLITICAL FIELD INCLUDING LABOR PARTY LEADERS. COMMENTATOR POSTULATES THREE POSSIBILITIES: (A) THAT BEGIN MAY CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT PEACE; (B) THAT HE BE REPLACED WITH SOMEONE WHO IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING INITIATIVE, ALTHOUGH THIS IS UP TO THE ISRAELIS AND WE DO NOT INTERFERE; OR (C) SITUATION WILL CONTINUE AND WAR WILL

BECOME MORE LIKELY. EILTS

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